



United States Air Force

# ONLINE news

Vol. 1, No. 19

The official USAF newspaper (<http://www.af.mil/newspaper>)

July 21, 1999

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## House cuts Raptor dollars

■ Funds focus on airmen

By Staff Sgt. Michael Dorsey  
Headquarters  
United States Air Force

WASHINGTON — As Congress recommends slicing funds from the F-22 Raptor program, the Air Force is standing fast on its view that obtaining the next-generation air superiority fighter remains a necessity.

"Air superiority is our job one," Maj. Gen. Bruce Carlson, director of Air Force operational requirements, said in a Pentagon press conference July 15, the day before the House Appropriations Committee affirmed its subcommittee's proposed budget cut for the F-22 on Capitol Hill. "The F-22 has a series of characteristics that bring to the battlefield the capability to win and dominate both in the air and on the ground."

General Carlson said the Raptor achieves

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U.S. Air Force photo

*As Congress recommends slicing funds from the F-22 Raptor program, the Air Force is standing fast on its view that obtaining the next-generation air superiority fighter remains a necessity.*

## Efforts won't impact readiness

By Master Sgt. Linda Brandon  
Headquarters United States Air Force

WASHINGTON — Calling the Air Force's efforts in Operation Allied Force the equivalent of a major theater war, the service's senior military leader is emphasizing a break for weary troops but insists the Air Force is still ready to fight today if needed.

Air Force Chief of Staff, Gen. Michael E. Ryan said that OAF was "a big deal for the Air Force, and we need some time to recover from that effort to ensure readiness and to sustain the force."

"We're currently assessing actual impacts and looking at options for recovery and reconstitution," he said. "However, if a major theater war

occurs, we're ready and we'll go to war.

"That's what we are in the military for," he said. "We fight and win the nation's wars. That's why we joined, that's why we stay."

General Ryan said that even though only half the force was used in OAF, when you add in all of the Air Force's ops tempo around the world, by percentage of force, this operation was bigger than either Desert Storm or Vietnam. It was also right on the heels of Operation Desert Fox, a four-night campaign of intense bombing against Iraqi targets last December.

"We have many individuals who worked hard during this conflict [OAF] and did a great job," General Ryan said, adding that, "The real reason Milosevic stopped was because

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## NEWSBYTES

### Confirmation hearing

Acting Secretary of the Air Force F. Whitten Peters is scheduled to testify today before members of the Senate Armed Services Committee during his confirmation hearing as President Clinton's nominee for secretary of the Air Force.

Mr. Peters has served as the under secretary and acting secretary of the Air Force since November 1997. He was nominated as secretary of the Air Force June 17.

### Cyclists pedal across Iowa

Although there are no Air Force bases in Iowa, the service will be well represented by 120 cycling enthusiasts participating in a 7-day bicycle ride across the state beginning Sunday.

The annual 530-mile ride, known as The Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa, attracts close to 20,000 riders.

Most Air Force participants have logged more than 1,000 miles training for the event which involves rolling countryside and heat indices of nearly 125 degrees. More information is at: <http://www.apci.net/~aimhigh>

### EQUAL list due out

The newest Enlisted Quarterly Assignment Listing of available enlisted assignments overseas will be available at military personnel flights and on the Air Force Personnel Center's World Wide Web home page Aug. 9.

The list includes assignments for overseas jobs opening April through June 2000. Personnel officials recommend assignment preferences be updated by Aug. 23 to ensure the information is in the computer system before actual assignments are released on or about Sept. 20.



## Letters to the editor

U.S. Air Force Online News publishes letters based on their appeal to an Air Force-wide audience each week. Send your letter to the U.S. Air Force Online News staff by completing the online form at <http://www.af.mil/newspaper/>

Due to the number of letters, not all letters can be published. Letters may be edited for grammar and length. Only letters accompanied by a valid name and email address will be considered.

## Don't let F-22 go

...Congress is considering not building the incredible air superiority fighter the F-22 Raptor. Our recent experience with the shoot down of the U.S. F-117 in Kosovo shows that 1970-80's aviation technology cannot be counted on to survive increasingly sophisticated enemy threats. ... To halt funding and procurement at this time ... is at best foolish and at worst irresponsible. Our air supremacy is quickly disappearing as 1970's era aircraft encounter 1990's and soon 2000 era threats.

**Kevin John Simon**  
Miami Beach, Fla.

## It's about time

... "it's about time" the Air Force changed its view on how to fight wars. [Changing AF means basic training changes, Online News, July 7]. Since enlisting in the Army I have come to see just how vulnerable we all are during times of conflict in world hot spots. My only concern is whether or not this new training is only for basic trainees or for the entire Air Force. ...

**Virgil W. Magee**  
SSGT, U.S. Army

## Big bucks

Why would the Air Force want to spend \$54 million on TV ads used for recruiting and retention when all they have to do is put the money back into the Air Force in benefits and pay raises. ... The Air Force is a great way of life, but it could be better if there was a way to control frivolous spending. I would like to see an article on misuse of money.

**Senior Airman Steve Nutt**  
Charleston AFB, S.C.

## Women unsuitable for combat

Women, by their very nature, are warm, loving creatures unsuitable for combat or other dangerous assignments. Look at the poor lady fighting a breast cancer at the South Pole, as an example. Can we guarantee that a female crew member flying a B-52 over a combat zone won't develop a breast cancer while languishing in prison camp after being shot down? Could we successfully drop life-saving medical equipment to her?

**Col. Jackson S. Wallace**  
USAF, Retired

# ◆ An Air Force housing master plan ◆

**By Lt. Gen.**  
**John W. Handy**

As we look to the 21st century, one of our highest enduring priorities is to recruit and retain the finest men and women in our Air Force. Providing safe and adequate housing for our military families enhances retention and readiness – while it is individuals we recruit, it is families we retain.

Achieving this priority is paramount to the Air Force's military capability today and tomorrow. To address our housing needs, an Air Force Family Housing Master Plan was briefed to the chief of staff and the acting secretary of the Air Force and is in final coordination.

Traditionally, the Air Force has managed a family-housing inventory that houses about 40 percent of our families on Air Force installations, with the rest relying on housing in local communities. Most of the Air Force's family housing was built during the 1950s and 1960s and now requires significant investment to meet modern-day standards.

Given the current condition of our housing and limited available funding, it will take approximately 26 years to bring these

homes up to modern standards using the traditional military construction (MILCON) program. However, the secretary of defense has tasked the services to "revitalize, divest through privatization, or demolish inadequate housing by fiscal (year) 2010." Meeting that milestone date calls for "out-of-the-box" thinking.

The Air Force response was to aggressively work with our major commands to create an Air Force Family Housing Master Plan. This plan follows the success of the 1999 Air Force Dormitory Master Plan by creating a road map to achieve Air Force corporate, DoD and congressional support to meet overall Air Force housing needs.

To develop the plan, our engineers along with financial and private-sector experts, visited almost every Air Force installation to document the existing condition of base housing units, assess the feasibility of housing privatization and produce a plan approved by the installation commander. Installation plans were forwarded for MAJCOM commander approval, then sent to the Air Staff for integration into the Air Force Master Plan.

The plan identifies MILCON, operations and maintenance, and privatization funding requirements by fiscal year to create an investment and execution strategy that

targets meeting DoD's 2010 goal. Executing the plan and achieving the 2010 goal will depend on the availability of future and successful leveraging of our resources through a measured approach to privatization.

A recent contract with industry to privatize houses at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, is indicative of the measured privatization approach prescribed by the master plan. This privatization initiative will allow Air Force families access to 420 quality homes. In line with this recent success, the Air Force will continue to design innovative solutions to meet housing revitalization needs.

Similarly, creative projects have recently been approved by DoD for preparation of requests-for-proposal at Robins AFB, Ga.; Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; Dyess AFB, Texas; Patrick AFB, Fla.; and Kirtland AFB, N.M. Four other initiatives are under evaluation and scheduled to come to fruition between 2001 and 2005. These privatization initiatives offer a win-win solution for the Air Force and our families – enhancing retention and readiness, and improving the quality of life for our most valuable asset: our people.

*Editor's note: General Handy is the deputy chief of staff for installations and logistics.*



## Efforts won't impact readiness

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the war was taken to Serbia.

"The lights went out, the water went off, the petroleum production ceased, the bridges were down, communications were down, the economics of the country were slowly falling apart, and I think he came to the realization that in a strategic sense, he wasn't prepared to continue this. And that," General Ryan said, "was because of air power."

"But you can't do that one again when you're tired," he said. "We must now take care of them [our people] and let them get both their professional lives and their private lives back together," General Ryan said. "We owe it to them — to that force that performed so marvelously."

Even with the furious pace OAF created for the Air Force General Ryan said that had air power been needed in Korea at the same time it was being used in Kosovo, the Air Force could have responded.

"We used between 40 and 50 percent of the capability that the U.S. Air Force had," he said. The other 50 percent, along with plenty of Reserve units on standby could have been put against another operation in Korea had that become necessary, according to General Ryan.

"We were very careful not to move some of our Pacific-based forces out," he said. "We protected those forces from the op tempo we were in, so they could be the immediate responders as we regrouped and had to turn the flow if we needed to."

As the Air Force assesses the actual impacts of OAF and options for recovery and reconstitution, General Ryan, said "it is the day-to-day op tempo we need to control if we are to recover the force."

He sees this being accomplished through the Expeditionary Air Force. "We need that right now, even more than we did before," he said.

"You have to have something to recover to after going for five months at a very, very, high op tempo with a lot of folks deployed overseas," General Ryan said. "And the concept of two AEFs on line at any one time is what the Air Force is recovering to."

However, he admitted that, "In some cases, we'll have to actually recover below two AEFs ... That will take us some time, but we should be back up in about six months," he said.

## Leaders rebut 'Times' article

By Douglas J. Gillert  
*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON — Halting mandatory anthrax shots would represent a "significant disservice" to men and women in uniform, Defense Secretary William Cohen and Gen. Henry Shelton said in a written rebuttal to the Army Times Publishing Co.

The July 12 editorial in the company's Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Times newspapers said DoD should let service members choose whether to receive the shots until more testing is done to determine if the vaccine may cause long-term health effects.

Secretary Cohen and General Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said their greatest concern is to adequately protect service members serving in combat zones or anywhere anthrax may be a threat, and making vaccinations optional could diminish military battle readiness. At least 10 potential adversaries have worked to develop anthrax as an offensive weapon, they said.

"Our commanders must know that all, not

simply some fraction, of their forces are protected from this biological threat," the secretary and chairman wrote. "Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines fight in teams, and they need to know that all team members are protected from anthrax."

The two defense leaders compared receiving the shots to wearing protective equipment. "Wearing helmets in battle isn't voluntary because everybody needs protection," they said. "The same is true of anthrax. Allowing a voluntary vaccination program is inadequate in the face of this deadly threat."

"It would be unconscionable not to protect our entire force with a safe and effective vaccine," they said. Immunization requires six shots over a period of 18 months. About 300,000 service members have begun

the series since Secretary Cohen ordered the mandatory inoculations in early 1998, and about 1 million shots have been given to date. For the full text of the Cohen-Shelton response, go to: [http://www.defenselink.mil/specials/anth\\_ed.html](http://www.defenselink.mil/specials/anth_ed.html) or [http://www.defenselink.mil/specials/anth\\_ed.html](http://www.defenselink.mil/specials/anth_ed.html).

## Anthrax information resources

Not sure about that shot? Get the scoop by going to the:

- DoD's Anthrax Web Site at <http://www.anthrax.osd.mil/>
- Centers for Disease Control at <http://www.cdc.gov/>
- Food and Drug Administration at <http://www.fda.gov/>
- Johns Hopkins University at <http://www.hopkins-biodefense.org/>
- Mayo Clinic at <http://www.mayo.edu/>
- National Institutes of Health ("Understanding Vaccines") at <http://www.nih.gov/>
- American Medical Association at <http://www.ama-assn.org/>
- World Health Organization at <http://www.who.org/>

## Air Force helps search for JFK, Jr.

When search and rescue efforts for a potential downed aircraft with John F. Kennedy, Jr., his wife and his sister-in-law on board began, the Air Force swiftly moved into action.

At Langley Air Force Base, Va., a routine alert message crossed the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center desk at 2:42 a.m., Saturday, July 17. The center is the single agency responsible for coordinating on-land search and rescue activities in the 48 contiguous United States. The center works closely with other federal and state agencies, such as the Federal Aviation Administration, U.S. Coast Guard, the Civil Air Patrol and the Air National Guard.

In addition to civilian search and rescue assets, the center coordinated with CAP, and

the Air National Guard's 106<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wing, Col. Francis S. Gabreski ANG Base, N.Y.

CAP volunteers from a five-state region — Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York and Rhode Island — searched along their respective coastlines.

The 106<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wing operates the only rescue aircraft in the northeastern United States designed for aerial refueling: the HC-130 Hercules and the HH-60G Pave Hawk.

At one point during the search, the HC-130 was pulled from its search pattern to begin airborne command and control duties to help coordinate the aerial effort that stretched approximately 1,000 square miles. Search coordination shifted to the Coast Guard Saturday night.





## Medical Service launches TRICARE info campaign

BOLLING AFB

D.C. — The Air Force Medical Service is making sure Air Force leaders are better informed about TRICARE, the health care plan for the uniformed services.

"TRICARE has been called the only 'HMO [Health Maintenance Organization] that goes to war,'" said Lt. Gen. Charles Roadman, Air Force Surgeon General. "It is structured to supply peacetime care while also supporting our readiness mission."

"We want to ensure our commanders and leaders understand the program and how it supports the readiness mission," General Roadman said. "Their support of the program means we all are better ready to do our peacetime and wartime missions."

Gen. Michael E. Ryan, Air Force chief of staff, echoed the surgeon general's concerns.

"Since health care and medical benefits consistently rank as one of the top quality of life concerns in the Air Force, it is absolutely vital that our leaders understand TRICARE and better inform their local communities to ensure program success," he said.

"Our commanders have a critical role in this effort," General Ryan said.

With that in mind, the Air Force is targeting its commanders and leaders with information about TRICARE with the objective of ensuring all medical beneficiaries know the facts about their health plan. Air Force leaders and commanders are in a unique position to help subordinates with their health care issues.

The campaign plan for informing the leadership about TRICARE is being called Operation Command Champion, and was briefed to senior leaders at the June CORONA Top 99, one of three annual meetings of senior Air Force leadership. The campaign kicked off in July with the objective of reaching all commanders by November.



# House cuts Raptor dollars

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air dominance because of its ability to attack deep in enemy territory and strike critical targets from a distance that puts fewer lives in danger. In addition to its stealth technology, the F-22's supercruise speed allows the aircraft to fly out of reach of mobile surface-to-air missiles and other air defense systems.

"We're not buying this airplane to win a war in 2000," said General Carlson, explaining the aircraft supports the military's Joint Vision 2010 concept. "We're buying it for 2010 to 2030 and beyond."

But representatives on Capitol Hill are more concerned with the price tag of the F-22 program than the plane's advanced capabilities. The House Appropriations Committee axed \$1.8 billion from the F-22 procurement budget and directed those funds to other programs.

According to pilots in the field, the time is now for bringing the F-22 on line. "It's absolutely vital," said Lt. Colonel Brian Dickerson, who believes the Air Force is losing its edge. "The F-15 probably hurt the program because it's done so well. It has air-to-air superiority, but there are threats on the ground that can challenge the aircraft."

Colonel Dickerson, operations officer for the 94<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron at Langley Air Force Base, Va., said the F-15 is an old and tired aircraft that is losing its edge. "The older a plane gets, the harder is it to get parts and the training suffers. The No. 1 thing that keeps us on top is the No. 1 thing that's going away."

Colonel Dickerson added that while the F-16 Falcon has seen several engine variations throughout its life, F-100 Pratt Whitney engines have been in Eagle since its inception.



## F-22Raptor

### Fast facts

- **Replaces F-15C**, which will be 30 years old when the F-22 becomes operational. First squadron is scheduled to be in place in 2005, first wing in place 2007.
- **Uses one-third fewer** maintenance people.
- **Uses one-half** airlift requirement than the F-15 to deploy.
- **The combination of stealth**, supercruise and integrated avionics means enemy engagement with the F-22 is significantly decreased.

### Specs

- **Speed** Mach 2 class (about 1,500 mph)
- **Ceiling** Above 50,000 feet
- **Range** More than 2,000 miles
- **Armament** One M61A2 20 mm multibarrel cannon; internal stations can carry AIM-9 infrared air-to-air missiles and AIM-120 radar-guided air-to-air missiles or 1,000 pound Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAMS); external stations can carry additional stores. (Source: Air Combat Command)

GRAPHIC: STAFF SGT CHERYL TONER

All the more reason why Maj. David Timm, weapons and tactics chief at Langley's 1<sup>st</sup> Fighter Wing, says it time to turn to a new aircraft.

"Everything wrong with the F-15 they fixed and made better in the F-22. It's the same thing the Air Force did with the F-4 by bringing in the F-15," Major Timm said. He has flown the F-15 for 16 years. "The F-22 rolls three aircraft into one — electronic warfare, suppression of enemy air defenses and air superiority."

*This article is available in its entirety online.*



## U.S. Air Force ONLINE news

U.S. Air Force ONLINE news is produced each Wednesday by the Secretary of the Air Force Office of Public Affairs and is available via Air Force Link (<http://www.af.mil/newspaper>). This funded U.S. Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for Air Force members and their families. Content is endorsed by the Department of the Air Force, but is not necessarily the views of or endorsed by the U.S. Government or Department of Defense. Editorial offices: SAF/PAI, 901 N. Stuart Suite 605, Arlington VA 22203. Telephone (703) 696-7832, Fax (703) 696-9162. Please post on unit bulletin boards and pass this copy on to others who need current Air Force news and information. Reproduce as needed.

### Publishers

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Col. Ronald T. Rand, *Director of Public Affairs*

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### Technical Production

Capt. Bryan Hubbard and Staff Sgt. Cheryl Toner